

Chapter Opt 8

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Opt 8.01 Definitions.
Opt 8.02 Continuing education.

Opt 8.03 Approval of continuing education courses.

Note: Chapter Opt 8 was created as an emergency rule effective November 8, 2006.

Opt 8.01 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- (1) "Biennium" means a 2-year period beginning December 16 of odd-numbered years.
- (2) "COPE" means the council on optometric practitioner education.
- (3) "Hardship" means serious illness, as determined by a licensed health care provider, or some other personal adversity, as determined by the board.

History: CR 06-116: cr. Register May 2007 No. 617, eff. 6-1-07.

Opt 8.02 Continuing education. (1) A licensee shall complete 30 hours of approved continuing education in each biennial registration period. A minimum of 7 of the 30 hours shall be approved glaucoma education.

(2) Except as provided in sub. (4), approved continuing education hours required for optometrists who are allowed to use diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents shall relate to the diagnosis and management of eye disease or the removal of superficial foreign bodies from an eye or from an appendage to the eye.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (4), approved continuing education hours required for optometrists who are not allowed to use diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents shall relate to the diagnosis and management of eye disease.

(4) No more than a combined total of 6 hours of continuing education per biennium may be claimed for course work that relates to one or more of the following subject matter:

- (a) Contact lens.
- (b) Functional vision.
- (c) General optometry.
- (d) Low vision.
- (e) Jurisprudence.
- (f) Practice management.

(5) Except for purposes of obtaining continuing education in order to satisfy the requirements for late renewal under s. Opt 7.05, continuing education hours may be applied only to the biennial registration period in which the continuing education hours are acquired.

(6) To obtain credit for completion of continuing education hours, an optometrist shall, at the time of each renewal of registration, sign a statement certifying that the course work has been completed. If audited, an optometrist shall submit certificates of attendance issued by each course provider or other evidence of attendance satisfactory to the board.

(7) An optometrist who fails to meet the continuing education requirements by the renewal date may not engage in the practice of optometry until his or her registration is renewed under s. Opt 7.05.

(8) Optometrists initially licensed within a biennium shall complete one hour of board approved continuing education per month or partial month of licensure reported on or before December 15 of the second year of the biennium. A minimum of one-quarter of the continuing education hours shall be in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma.

(9) Except as provided in sub. (8), no more than a combined total of 6 hours of continuing education per biennium may be claimed for course work obtained through alternative delivery methods such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing, or other delivery methods approved by the board under s. Opt 8.03 (4).

(10) The board may permit a certificate holder to claim more than 6 hours of continuing education per biennium for course work obtained through alternative delivery methods such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing, or other delivery methods approved by the board, if the credential holder submits evidence satisfactory to the board of hardship.

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Opt 8.03 Approval of continuing education courses. (1) Except as provided in sub. (5), to apply for approval of a continuing education course, a course provider shall submit to the board office an application on forms provided by the department and shall include the title, general description and an outline of the course, the dates, the location, the name and qualifications of the instructor of the course, and the sponsor of the course.

Note: An application for continuing education course approval may be obtained from the board office at the Department of Regulation and Licensing, Office of Examination and Education, P.O. Box 8935, Madison, Wisconsin, 53708, or from the department's website at: <http://drl.wi.gov>.

(2) A continuing education course must meet all of the following criteria to be approved as a continuing education course:

- (a) The subject matter of the course pertains to the practice of optometry.
- (b) The provider of the continuing education course agrees to monitor the attendance and furnish a certificate of attendance to each participant. The certificate of attendance shall certify successful completion of the course.
- (c) The provider of the course is approved by the board.
- (d) The course content and instructional methodologies are approved by the board.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (5), a separate application shall be submitted for each continuing education course approval request.

(4) The board may approve alternate delivery method continuing education courses such as home-study courses, self-study packages, computer courses, televideo conferencing and other methods.

(5) A continuing education course approved by COPE, or sponsored by a state optometric association, the American Optometric Association, the American Academy of Optometry, or an accredited school or college of optometry, which satisfies the criteria established under sub. (2), shall be approved by the board without receipt of a course approval application from the course provider.

Note: The Council on Optometric Practitioner Education (COPE), which is a committee of the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO), may be contacted at 1750 South Brentwood Boulevard, Suite 503, St. Louis, Missouri 63144, (314) 785-6000. The American Optometric Association may be contacted at 243 N. Lindbergh Blvd., 1st Floor, St. Louis, MO 63141, (800) 365-2219. The American Academy of Optometry may be contacted at 6110 Executive Blvd., Suite 506, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 984-1441.

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